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of the true God, is guilty of the sin of Jeroboam; that the strong presumption further is, that what Protestants call the second commandment is directed against and condemns that sin: therefore, that the Romish division of the commandments is erroneous, and the Protestant the right and just one.

A LOVER OF TRUTH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CATHOLIC LAYMAN.

DEAR SIR—I live in the west of the county Waterford, near the town of Youghal, where Father Foley kept what the Protestants called a "religious theatre" some time ago, but, like many other undertakings, it did not tell well, times being bad, and the people too fond of cash (small blame to them; 'tisn't got very easy).

Well, Mr. Editor, I must tell you there was in this neighbourhood, some time ago, a clergyman of the Protestant Church (Mr. Aldworth)—and sure they are calling it a Catholic Church now—and a civil gentleman he was; but, however, like the readers in Kilcommon, he alarmed the priests with what are called "controversy lectures."

Well, as we expected, the priests determined not to let him have "all the game to himself," so they began to lecture in the chapel, and one of them (Father Smiddy) said they made thirty converts, though we never saw them, and he told Mr. Aldworth so in a letter he wrote to him. But what I want, Mr. Editor, is your opinion on a part of his letter to Mr. Aldworth, and to know from you why the people are not allowed to exercise their judgment in the same way, and under the same circumstances, that Father Smiddy says he would exercise his own; and why a priest should be the *first man to prevent us*.

Now give you the part of his letter in question:—

"Let me also inform you"—to Mr. Aldworth—"that, within the last year, at least thirty persons have fled to the rock of Catholicity from the shifting sands of Protestantism. *Can you boast of anything like this?* Thanks again to God, the work of conversion is going on rapidly in Youghal. Without presuming to dictate to any one, I must say that, if I saw the steady and thinking individuals of the crew thus deserting my ship, I should very minutely sound the planks and examine her condition, *no matter by what human authority she was warranted safe.*"

Well, Mr. Editor, I was listening to a lecture delivered in Ardmore school—where St. Declan lived and preached—by a Protestant clergyman, and he said that, in his opinion, 34,000 of the people of Ireland had gone to church; and I'm told that reading the Douay Bible made them do so, and that puzzles me right and left. I don't know what to say to it; 'tis like beating a man with his own stick; and, Mr. Editor, if this is the case, I think the sooner we examine our vessel the better; and, I'm told, the boys in America are doing something like it, and, in my humble judgment, a good many of them are taking the sea-store which your paper says St. Christopher recommended so many years ago; and maybe its the ignorance is dying out "of the boys instead of the faith." I'm told they are at liberty to think as they like in America, and, I think, we ought to be allowed to do so here, too; and sure, if a gentleman is kind enough to read the Douay Bible to a person, 'tisn't like liberty to send a bellman after him, as I'm told the priests do in Meath, and in some other parts down, and, I'm thinking, it might serve their cause after—for, as Jem Carty says, it may have the same effect on the readers as it has on a swarm of bees; shouting and bell-ringing will make them pitch and begin to work, instead of driving them away; and, I'm beginning to think (and more of the boys, too) if the church is infallible, it don't want the support of a bellman at any rate. I hope, Mr. Editor, you will pardon me for trespassing on you; but your kindness in printing Pat Murray's letter and T. M'D's made me apply to you for a little information.

I am, Mr. Editor,

Your humble servant,
JEREMIAH O'REILLY.

Clashmore, county Waterford.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CATHOLIC LAYMAN.

SIR—I have heard say from my neighbour, Pat Murray, and from other honest people too, that ye are a kind man, that will not grudge a bit of advice to a poor man in a nonplush. Sir, it was only last October that my poor Frank was taken from me with the fever. A better boy never lived. From the time that he was the lith of my knee, his mother nor I never had to say a cross word to him; and, sir, it is hard to lose him now, when he was beginnin' to be a support and a comfort to us; but it was the Lord took him, and blessed be his will. Well, sir, we gave him a decent berrin', and its we weren't stingy to the priest either; for I'd scorn to save money that could be either a credit or a profit to poor Frank. And we were wishin', last month, to have more masses said for him; for though there couldn't be a better Christian nor Frank, nor one that made a happier end, I know it's only saints and holy bishops that can expect to go strait to heaven without passin' through purgatory. No, sir, I went up to the master, Mr. Carter, to borry a

pound; for with all we had spent in the berrin' we were hard put to it, and the master is a good and a kind man, and I didn't mind askin' him. And, when I told him what made me want the money, ses he to me—"Mike," ses he, "I don't think you're wise in the way you're spendin' your money; for," ses he, "didn't you tell me that your son died trustin' in the Lord Jesus Christ to save him; and don't you think he is able to save us from hell or purgatory?" "He is, sir," said I; "but shure we're all sinners, and sin must be punished." "That it must," says he; "but didn't the Lord Jesus bear the punishment of our sins on the cross, and would God be so unfair as, after he had borne the punishment, to take it agen out of his people, and to be angry with the people he died for?" So, Mr. Editor, though I didn't half like taking it on me to instruct the master, yet as ye couldn't expect a Protestant like him to know the Catholic doctrine as well as one that had been taught by the priest like me, "Sir," ses I, "you're under a great mistake; if God sends souls to purgatory it's not that he hasn't forgiven them, or that he's angry with them, but, sir, the priest told me that it's in the Bible that nothing defiled can enter into the kingdom of heaven; or if it's not in the Bible, it stands to reason anyhow. Sure if ye were to ask my little Paudheen into yer house, his mother wouldn't let him into yer drawin'-room before he was washed from top to toe, and if she sent him up dirty yer honour would be right to turn him out again; and so it stands to reason, too, that a soul is not let into heaven until all the sin is burnt out of it, and till there's not as much left as would darken the white of your eye." So, Mr. Editor, I thought the master saw the sense of that, and he stood, for a while, as if he was considering; and at last, "Mike," ses he, "does yer little Paddy ever cry when he's being washed?" "Troth he does, sir," ses I, "whenever his mother tries him that way." "Well," says he, "and if I was to invite him to my drawin'-room, as you say, would you mind his cryin' a little, or would you have him washed till he was quite clean?" "Ah, then, your honour," ses I, "I wish you saw him when his mother gets hold of him; troth he might roar as he liked, but whether he liked it or not, she would not let him out of her clutches till she had made him fit to be seen." "Why, then, Mike," says the master, "here's the money; but I advise ye to consider what ye do with it; for," ses he, "it's no pleasure to God to put Frank to pain, and ye may depend on it he won't send him to purgatory if it's not good for him, and sure he would know better than you. And if all the sin isn't burned out of him yet, it's better for him to bear a little pain till it is, than let him go into heaven with it in him. Sure," says he, "ye might as well let yer little Paddy come into my room with a dirty face, just because he did not like havin' it washed."

So, Mr. Editor, I have been thinking since over what the master sed, and talking it over with my wife, and we were never worse in want of a friend's advice. For though it's the hardest winter we have had this many a long year, and though the money would come handy to us, I'd rather pawn the last stitch of clothes we had, and go without a stick to warm ourselves, sooner nor Frank shuld want anything that ud do him good. But I've been thinking that maybe Frank would not be obliged to us if we got him out of purgatory before the Lord's time to take him out. For sure he would not like it if, when he got into heaven, the other souls looked down on him, and said—"There's the fellow that his friends got in here before he was half cleaned, and with half his sins not burned out of him." So, sir, a word of advice will much oblige

Your humble servant to command,

MIKE DOLAN, of Westmeath.

[We tell Mr. Dolan candidly that if a man does not forsake his sins in this world, we don't know of any way for his getting rid of them in the next. However, we are quite sure of this, that if God has provided any such way it would be a very unfriendly thing to prevent a man's having the full benefit of it. And since Mr. Dolan says that his son died trusting in his Saviour, we advise him to leave him in his hands, assured that he will not make him suffer more pain than is for his good.—ED. C. L.]

FARM OPERATIONS FOR JANUARY.

Any winter ploughing remaining undone should be put out of hands without loss of time, that the land may receive the ameliorating influence of the winter's frosts and thaws as much as possible, taking advantage when the land is dry, but avoid ploughing when the land is saturated with wet. All stubble ploughing ought to be deep, certainly not less than seven inches, and, if possible, ten inches. To turn over the latter-mentioned depth, it will be necessary to yoke three horses in the plough. Shallow ploughing is useless; and good after-crops can never be raised when this practice is followed. Attend closely to the draining and subsoiling of all such portions of the farm as require those primary, vital operations.

Wheat.—The very severe weather, which has continued with little intermission for many weeks, has very much retarded wheat sowing, and in many districts

where it has been sown the grain has rotted in the ground. As wheat may be sown with every chance of success during the early part of this month, if the land be found sufficiently dry, we would earnestly urge farmers to make every exertion to get in the usual breadth, taking care, as the season advances, to increase the quantity of seed.

Bere may still be sown in early and dry soils, as a grain crop, and in almost all soils for a soiling crop.

Rye may also be sown, on cold, backward soils, or mountain land, for either a grain crop or soiling.

Spring Vetches may be sown towards the end of the month, if the weather be open and dry.

Peas can be sown from the middle of the month, if the land be light and tolerably dry, with or without manure.

Beans may be sown on strong land, if not too wet, they require a liberal dressing of manure if sown on stubble land.

Plant out Roots for Seed.—This will be a good time to select and plant out the roots of turnips, mangels, parsnips, and carrots for the production of seed. Prepare a deep, rich, friable soil, well manured, in a fully exposed, unsheltered aspect, away from hedges, trees, or walls; select the largest, cleanest, and best formed roots, and plant in trenches—turnips and mangels, three feet trench from trench, and the roots two feet apart in the trench; parsnips, three feet by one-and-a-half feet apart; and carrots, two and a-half feet by one foot; and then cover the entire of the bulbs. It will be better to choose a stronger soil for those roots to seed in than that they grow in the last season. If more convenient, the roots may be left to seed in the land they grew in, without disturbing them; but in this case, it will be necessary to remove every second row, and every second root in the row; let the intervals be well cleaned afterwards, and the roots to remain be well earthed up. Cultivate but one variety of the same species on the same farm, otherwise the seed will be impure, and not to be relied on.

Grass Lands, whether intended for meadow or grazing stock, should be well top-dressed with rich composts, with as little delay now as possible; and all should be cleared of stock. As soon as the top-dressing is sufficiently dry, bush-harrow and roll.

Water Meadows require constant attention this month, remove every obstruction to the free flow of the water in the various canals and ducts, and keep the water constantly and evenly flowing. Change the water from one field to another once a week or ten days, during mild weather; but in the case of frost keep it still running as the tender grass suddenly exposed to keen winds or frost would be greatly injured.

Stall-fed Cattle should now be putting up flesh rapidly, and as soon as ripe should be disposed of.

Cattle of all sorts should be kept clean and comfortable, for no animal will thrive well, no matter how abundant its keep, wanting these essentials. Attention to these requisites, with moderate rations of good and wholesome food, will keep stores of all kinds, and milch cows, in a healthy and thriving condition, and free from black-leg and other diseases. Feed milch cows so as to keep them in vigorous health—neither too fat nor too lean—by moderate supplies of succulent food—sweet hay and fresh straw. Give no frozen turnips, and let each animal have free access to salt.

Ewes require like treatment; let them have dry lying, shelter, and a moderate supply of wholesome, nutritious food; avoid giving frozen turnips, but let them have free access to good hay and salt.

Fatting Wethers should have a liberal supply of good hay with their turnips and oil-cake or corn. Dry lying, and access to hay and salt, are the best preservatives against rot.

Pigs of all sorts should be well and liberally fed; and all not put up for fatting should have plenty of exercise; those fatting should have a liberal supply of grain, for a month at least before being slaughtered.

Manure.—Let the accumulation of manure be constantly attended to. Leaving the manure strewed about and ungathered, exposed to constant rains, which wash away, and drying winds, to evaporate its most valuable properties, should not be tolerated; let, therefore, no time elapse before it is gathered up and stored, in good-sized mounds, or removed to those portions of the farm where it is intended for application to the different root crops, &c., mixed with light, dry, rich earth, banked up, and well covered at both top and sides, to preserve it from the action of the weather. Let the liquid manure be attended to and well husbanded; empty the tanks frequently, and top-dress meadows and grass lands with it, or pour it over the dung-heaps.

Odds and Ends.—Keep the thrashers busy, so as to supply the cattle with straw; attend to the repairs of fences and the formation of new ones. In all open, dry weather keep the plough at work, and in times of frost lead and carry out manure to the land it is intended to be used on; repair roads; quarry and convey limestone to the kiln, with fuel for burning it; scour out ponds and ditches; level old fences, mixing lime with the earth; repair implements.